

E

Appendix E - Environmental Commitments



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Environmental commitments include mitigation measures identified in Chapter 3 and other actions Reclamation would take to avoid or reduce impacts or provide to enhance the environment. The actions below would apply to all alternatives except where noted.

Water Quality

- Lucky Peak Lake would be held as high as possible throughout the third construction season to maximize settling of suspended sediments
- Sluice gates would not be used to pass inflow until after 5 days (cumulative) of work site flooding has occurred
- Water quality would be monitored upstream of Arrowrock Dam, downstream of Arrowrock Dam, and downstream of Lucky Peak Dam prior to, during , and after construction
- Construction specifications would include measures to prevent discharge of pollutants such as petroleum and construction waste into any reservoir or stream
- Reclamation would obtain a Section 404 Permit from the Corps prior to any dredge or fill activity within the waters of the U.S. and would abide by the conditions of any permit. Corresponding State of Idaho permits would be obtained as required

Fish

- Under Alternative A, Reclamation has agreed to reimburse IDFG for restocking Arrowrock Reservoir with 180,000 rainbow trout fingerlings, 140,000 rainbow catchables and 77,500 kokanee fingerlings after construction. See comment letter 1A and Reclamation's response

Vegetation and Wildlife

- Vegetation removal for construction staging and concrete disposal areas would be minimized to the extent practical. Where vegetation is removed, the site would be recontoured and reseeded after construction is completed

Threatened and Endangered Species (Bull Trout)

Reclamation consulted with USFWS under Section 7 of ESA and received a Draft BO for the project. The following environmental commitments for bull trout and bald eagle are consistent with USFWS recommendations in the Draft BO and Final USFWS's Final FWCA Report (Appendix F). Details of the commitments below are found in Appendix I.

- Bull trout would be trapped upstream of Arrowrock in year 3 using a weir on the Middle Fork Boise River and transported to Lucky Peak Lake
- Bull trout would be recaptured in Lucky Peak Lake after completion of the project and returned to Arrowrock
- Bull trout population surveys in Arrowrock Reservoir would be conducted prior to and after construction
- Bull trout movement would be monitored during and after the project using radiotelemetry
- Reclamation would take the lead in forming an interagency Arrowrock Valve Replacement Working Group to guide monitoring, mitigation and recommend operational changes during the project
- All measures specified in the USFWS 1999 BO on Reclamation operations, especially reducing bull trout entrainment and determination and implementation of a minimum pool in Arrowrock, would be implemented

Reclamation has proposed bald eagle mitigation that is consistent with the draft BO and Final FWCA Report for this project (Appendix F). Proposed mitigation measures include:

- Reclamation would cooperate with the USFS to develop nest site management plans for the two bald eagle nests at Arrowrock Reservoir
- Reclamation, in cooperation with USFWS, USFS and IDFG would determine the potential need and effectiveness of supplemental winter feeding of bald eagles at Arrowrock Reservoir during construction, and provide supplemental feeding if needed

Recreation

- Reclamation would notify the public of anticipated operational changes that would impact the recreation season and/or facilities

Recreation Economics

- Reclamation is committed to working with Idaho State Parks and Ada County within the limits of its authorities to offset critical economic losses, if any, during the 3-year construction period. Funds will be allocated for additional law enforcement and safety support consistent with conditions and need

Cultural Resources

- Reclamation in cooperation with the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes would conduct a reconnaissance of the drawdown area in the Arrowrock pool to identify potentially significant cultural resource areas. If such areas are found, Reclamation would conduct a subsurface magnetometry or remote sensing survey of the areas. Treatment of burials or any other cultural items that fall under the purview of NAGPRA would be determined through a plan of action to be developed by Reclamation in coordination with the tribes
- Reclamation would monitor drawdown areas with high resource potential to ensure that collection or vandalism of cultural material does not occur
- Reclamation's HAER process to document the historic integrity of Arrowrock dam has been completed and serves as mitigation for impacts to the historic integrity of the dam
- Reclamation would use the HAER data to prepare public interpretive information about Arrowrock Dam and the role of the Boise Project on historic development in southwestern Idaho (Alternatives A and B)